REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have elected, with traverse, Claims 7-9. Claims 1-6 have been amended to depend, ultimately, on elected Claim 7, and thus should be rejoined and allowed with elected Claims 7-9.

Support for the amendment to Claim 7 is found at specification page 5, line 32. The amendment to Claim 9 clarifies this claim, as supported at specification page 20, lines 13-20. New Claim 10 find support at this same portion of the specification. New Claims 11-20 find support in the Examples. See, e.g., Example 1 at specification page 30, lines 16-20, Example 2 at page 32, lines 32-35, etc. No new matter has been entered.

The rejection of Claims 7, 8 and 9 over <u>Hudson</u> is traversed. <u>Hudson</u> relates to a polishing pad with incompressible, highly soluble particles suspended in a body (Abstract; see also column 4, lines 8-20). However, <u>Hudson</u> specifically controls the size of these particles to between approximately 0.1 and approximately 3 μm in diameter, more preferably between 0.5 and 1.5 μm in diameter. See column 4, lines 45-48.

Nothing in <u>Hudson</u> discloses or suggests the presently claimed particles having an average particle diameter of from 10 to 90 µm. Such a size is unprecedented in view of <u>Hudson</u>, especially because the polishing properties of the resultant pad would be expected to be quite poor in view of the presence of such large particles. However, and as shown in the several Examples of record, Applicants' polishing pad with its particular combination of elements in fact provides excellent results. Because <u>Hudson</u> does not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed polishing pad, the rejection over this reference should be withdrawn.

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Accordingly, and in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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